**Overview:**

The Harlem Shadow

* Summary: it is about a young prostitute roaming the streets in low income areas of Harlem nights. She does not rest because she has to make her living in the streets.

The Harlem Dancer

* Summary: it is about young African American prostitutes dancing in a club. While doing this, they are forced to grow up in this society quicker than expected. The young woman’s image of being a young girl is now diminishing as time goes on because they have to express themselves in a sexual way. “ … half-clothed body sway….she sang and danced on gracefully and calm”
* She is trapped in a lifestyle where she does not want to be. Under social circumstances she is forced into this lifestyle. “But, looking at her falsely-smiling face. I knew her self was not in that strange place.”

Becky

* She is forced to leave town and live on the outskirts of town because she has two African American sons
* As the mother, she takes responsibility and keeps the father a secret which is why she’s shunned
* Some townspeople feel a little remorse for her, so they secretly send her food
* She is judged and criticized by both whites and blacks for having the interracial relationships, which resulted in her pregnant

Blood-Burning Moon

* Louisa is having an interracial relationship with her boss, Bob Stone, which is not acceptable during this time. While she is also in a relationship with Tom Burwell. Rumors spread around town that she is a relationship with both Bob and Tom. One night, both Tom and Bob went to talk to her, not knowing that the other will be there, jealousy overcame both men and a fight broke out. Ending in Tom killing Bob, and the Townspeople killing Tom. Now Louisa is left standing alone.

Karintha

* Karintha is a beautiful girl who uses the attention she gets from her admirers to receive money. She has been married many times, and has a child. She uses her sensuality and sexuality throughout her life which causes her to “ripened too soon.”

Sweat

* Delia, who is a washerwoman, is in an abusive relationship with her husband, Sykes. She takes pride in her home and work, but is unappreciated. While Delia is working to maintain her property, Sykes is having an affair with a woman named Bertha. Although he does not have a job, he pays Bertha’s rent and buys her items. One day he decided to bring home a rattlesnake in order to scare Delia away, but is bitten and killed by the snake. Delia hears the whole thing, but does nothing to help him because she is now at peace and relieved of Sykes. “All this Delia could see and hear from her place beneath the window, and it made her ill. She crept over to the four-o'clocks and stretched herself on the cool earth to recover.